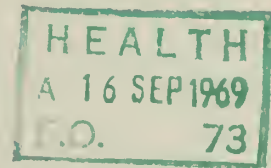


**THE HEALTH  
OF  
HITCHIN**

**1968**





ACKd. BY

*nac*

*16/9/69*

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December, 1968

Chairman of the Council

Councillor Mrs. B.F. Wearmouth, J.P.

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee

Councillor C.F. Burr

J.S. Ballantyne

G.J. Graves

K. Bennett

G.F. Hendry

B.W. Davis

P.J. Marchant

P.I. Robbins

Medical Officer of Health

J.D. Hall, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. Holt, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

H. Forrest, M.A.P.H.I.

## P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,

Brand Street,

Hitchin.

To the Chairman & Members of the Hitchin Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1968.

The population of Hitchin has again increased although not so much as in 1967. The birth rate was lower than the previous year but was still higher than the remainder of England and Wales and the county as a whole. There were no maternal deaths.

The deaths of children under the age of one were almost twice as many as for 1967 and the infant mortality rate is in excess of that for the remainder of England and Wales and the county. Of the infant deaths three were due to prematurity, two to intestinal diseases, one to leukaemia, two to pneumonia and bronchitis and the rest to congenital anomalies and other causes. It should be observed that more deaths occurred from fewer births although many were obviously unavoidable.

The perinatal death rate also increased, but this was due largely to the increase in deaths under one week rather than to stillbirths, which remain the same as the previous year. There was a slight increase in illegitimate births.

The deaths in 1968 occurred not only at the greatest danger period, the moment of birth, the first week of life but also at the age of over 1 month and although the numbers are relatively small and not statistically significant, this trend will require observation.

The total number of deaths from all causes was slightly higher than in 1967 and the death rate itself was rather higher than elsewhere in the county. The commonest cause of death remained diseases of the heart and blood vessels but only a fractional increase in the number of deaths from cancer. Again there were no deaths from tuberculosis or any other common infectious disease.

An outbreak of typhoid occurred in June 1968 which was restricted to the Indian (Sikh) community.



### TYPHOID OUTBREAK AT HITCHIN

On Friday 31st May, 1968, an Indian (Sikh) boy, aged two years, was admitted to hospital, with diarrhoea, vomiting and some fever. He had recovered sufficiently to be discharged on Sunday 2nd June, 1968.

During his weekend stay in hospital, a wedding was celebrated at the patient's home: This was attended by all the members of household (fourteen persons, from two families), the bride and bridegroom (who were not members of the household), the officiating priest, and numbers of Indian wedding guests who came both from the immediate neighbourhood in Hitchin, and from other areas such as Stevenage and Leicester. The bride and bridegroom immediately went to live in Coventry.

Following the child's return home from hospital on Sunday 2nd June, it is clear that he did not remain well for long, for he was re-admitted on Tuesday 4th June with severe toxæmia, diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. Investigations initiated during the next few days gave a positive blood culture for the typhoid bacillus.

Treatment was commenced on Friday 7th June.

The following courses of action were now adopted:

- 1) Contacts of the case were traced with a view to placing them under surveillance.
- 2) Children at his home were excluded from school.
- 3) Three members of the household were excluded from work as they were food handlers: one of these people was a female who worked in a chicken packing factory in the rural district.
- 4) Guests at the wedding were traced with a view to placing them under surveillance.
- 5) It was decided that, in general, specimens of blood, urine and faeces should be examined from all contacts.

On the third day of the episode (Friday 13th June) a typhoid carrier was detected bacteriologically, as the chicken packer who lived in the same house as the first case. Because of her association with the chicken packing factory, the factory was closed, and all the workers there were treated as contacts. This patient was admitted to St. Albans City Hospital Isolation Unit.

In the course of tracing the contacts of both the original case and the carrier, close attention was paid to five groups of people.

- 1) Relevant patients and staff at the hospital where the first case was hospitalised.
- 2) Guests at the wedding mentioned above: it will be recalled that the wedding occurred during the child's first clinical illness, before a diagnosis had been reached, or even suspected.
- 3) Members of the household (fourteen persons) of the original case.
- 4) Staffs of local food shops from which members of the household purchased their food.
- 5) Staff at the chicken packing factory.

With the passage of time, contacts at the hospital and the chicken packing factory were cleared and it was re-opened in three days. Various members of the household from which both the confirmed case and the carrier originated were hospitalised, either because their blood sera gave suspicious reactions, or for social reasons. No further cases from this group were confirmed.

Only one food shop was relevant to the outbreak - a general store run by an Indian family: this family had not infrequent social and commercial contact with members of the household yielding the first case. The wife of the proprietor of this shop seemed vaguely unwell: and was admitted to hospital (together with her infant son), the shop was closed, and food and other samples examined. Contacts and food samples were cleared and the shop was re-opened in two days.

Guests and participants at the wedding were traced at Hitchin, Leicester, Coventry and Stevenage. All were quickly cleared except one - an Indian male resident in England for some years. His blood cultures however proved uniformly negative.

#### Observations:

- 1) At the onset it was thought that the general store run by the Indian family may have been the source of this typhoid outbreak; it became clear very soon that this was not the case. It will be recalled that the proprietor's wife had been admitted to hospital and that her infant son had been admitted to hospital with her.
- 2) At about the same time a small boy from the same house as the first case, who had been hospitalised for social reasons, was found to be harbouring a strain of Salmonella panama in his faeces.
- 3) The bride at the wedding was a young Indian who entered Britain on 2nd May 1968 from India, some five weeks prior to the start of the episode and had lived in the same house as both confirmed cases: because she was the only new entrant into the relevant part of the Indian community in Hitchin, and/...



because of her close contact with both it was thought that she might herself be a carrier or more probably a convalescent case. The organism however was not isolated.

#### Source of the Outbreak:

The three possible sources of infection in this outbreak were food, a case, and a carrier; water was not seriously considered as a possible source.

- 1) Food: food samples from the shop supplying the Sikh community and from the household in which the cases occurred were sampled within the first few days and all were negative.

Chickens from the chicken-packing factory were also sampled and found to be negative within the same period.

- 2) A case: The bride, who arrived from India a few weeks before the first case occurred and lived in the closest possible contact was considered a likely source: she was young and likely to recover from typhoid without producing a carrier state. It is possible that she infected both the woman and the child as a convalescent case. Her bacteriological findings carried out in Coventry were, however, negative; but this is not necessarily contra-indictive of being the source.
- 3) A Carrier: it is easiest to attribute the source of the outbreak to the woman found both bacteriologically and serologically positive within two days of the outbreak and living in the same house as the child and the bride: she had, however, lived in this country for some three years and had not re-visited India during that time. It might be postulated that the lack of a typhoid outbreak before June 1968 could be due to her intermittency as a carrier; she is, however, now a persistent excretor and must be considered a permanent carrier.

In my opinion the source of the outbreak as a choice between the bride and the present carrier cannot be made.

#### Summary:

A small outbreak of typhoid fever (one confirmed case and one carrier), restricted to the Indian (Sikh) community at Hitchin as described. After the main episode no secondary cases developed. Examination of the two isolates of Salmonella typhi showed them to be of 'phage type 0' (origin India).

Total number of Sikhs examined 167

Total number with positive serological findings 28

Percentage positive 17

Total number of contacts examined other than Sikhs 156

Total number with positive serological findings 9

Percentage positive 6

Number of contacts traced and sampled. 223.

The cost of this small outbreak to Hitchin Urban and Rural Districts should not be ignored, incurred by closure of the chicken-packing factory for three days, and of a shop for two days. It would seem that a district no matter its size, is vulnerable if it includes in its area a factory of this kind; had the Public Health Laboratory Service not been able to act in testing samples so expeditiously, the bill to the District Councils could well have been greater than they could reasonably stand. The present legislation, making each local district council responsible for debts of this kind, appears to be unrealistic.

I would record my gratitude for the advice and services given by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton, Dr.A.T. Willis, during the outbreak: for a period of five days - including a weekend - the laboratory staff, the staff of the local district councils (especially the public health inspectors) and the staff of the local health authority were working without remission in tracing and obtaining samples from contacts. I would also record my gratitude to the members and the Clerks of the local authorities concerned for their support.

I would like to express my thanks ~~to all~~ the public health and health and welfare staff in Hitchin Urban, including those concerned with administration, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J.D. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Divisional Health Office,  
Bedford Road,  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Telephone No: Hitchin 50411.

SECTION "A"  
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	3,850
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mid-1968	26,920
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1968 (estimated)	8,988
Rateable Value	£1,671,992
Net Product of 1d rate	£6,790

(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for mid-1968 reveals an overall increase of 680. Natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 120.

HITCHIN VITAL STATISTICS 1968

LIVE BIRTHS:	Males	Females	TOTAL
Total	258	237	495
Legitimate	234	212	446
Illegitimate	24	25	49
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.4
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	17.5
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	9.8
STILL-BIRTHS			
Total	3	5	8
Rate of 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	15.9
Total live and still-births	261	242	503
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:			
Total	9	5	14
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	26.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	40.8
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	10.1
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births).	-	-	10.1
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	26.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS	171	204	375
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	13.9
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	11.2
Natural increase of population	-	-	120
Overall increase of population	-	-	680



# CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968

IN

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, W.C. 2.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total										75 and over
		all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	
B4 ENTERITIS AND OTHER DIARRHOEAL DISEASES	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1) MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS-STOMACH	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
B19(2) MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS-LUNG, BRONCHUS	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
B19(3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS-BREAST	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	1
B19(4) MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS-UTERUS.	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
B19(5) LEUKAEMIA	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(6) OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, ETC.	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	4	3
	F	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	6
B20 BENIGN AND UNSPECIFIED NEOPLASMS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B21 DIABETES MELLITUS	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
B46(1) OTHER ENDOCRINE ETC. DISEASES	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM ETC.	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1
B26 CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
B27 HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD:-	M	40	-	1	-	2	1	2	3	9	15	7
	F	54	-	2	1	-	1	3	3	12	13	19

## CAUSE OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	75 and over.	
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD:-	M	40	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	3	9	15	7
	F	54	-	2	1	-	-	1	3	12	13	19	
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	M	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	18	21
	F	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	-	-
B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	M	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	4	4	11
	F	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	2	19
B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
B31 INFLUENZA	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B32 PNEUMONIA	M	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	15
B33(1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	4
	F	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B33(2) ASTHMA	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B36 INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION AND HERNIA	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
B38 NEPHRITIS AND NEPHROSIS	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD:-	M	150	1	1	1	1	2	1	13	26	46	57	
	F	164	-	3	1	-	-	3	4	18	39	95	



CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex		Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year		1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over.
	Total all ages	ages												
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD:-	M 150 F 164	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	13	26	46	57
B46(8) OTHER DISEASES. GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	M 1 F 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
B46(10) DISEASES OF MUSCULO- SKELETAL SYSTEM	M - F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
B42 CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	M 1 F 1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B43 BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR ETC.	M 2 F -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	M 2 F -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL- DEFINED CONDITIONS	M 10 F 26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
BE 47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M 3 F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
BE 48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M 2 F 6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
BE 49 SUICIDE AND SELF- INFLECTED INJURIES	M - F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M 171 F 204	5	4	5	2	1	2	1	2	3	13	27	48	67
														128

# POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1968 HITCHIN U.D.C.	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire.	England and Wales.
Population	26,920	154,550	892,470	48,593,000
Live Births (Crude)	18.4	18.0	16.22	16.9
Live Births (Corrected)	17.5		15.2	
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	13.9	8.9	9.5	11.9
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	11.2		10.7	
Infective and Parasitic Diseases- excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilis and other V.D.	-	0.006	0.05	*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.006	0.21	0.03
Other Forms	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.13
All Forms	0.00	0.02	0.25	*
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs.	0.52	0.40 )	1.95	0.59
Other	2.00	1.46 )		1.72
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.85	1.23	1.32	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.94	3.28	2.84	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.48	1.03	1.38	-
Maternal Mortality	0.00	-	0.14	0.24
Infantile Mortality	28	17.5	16.16	18.0
Neo Natal Mortality	10.1	10.7	11.12	12.4
Early Neo Natal Mortality	10.1	10.4	9.94	10.5
Perinatal Mortality	26.0	24.7	22.58	25.0
Still-births	15.9	14.4	12.76	14.0

\* Not available.

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1968

	Males	Females	TOTAL
<b>LIVE BIRTHS:</b>			
Total	1,441	1,347	2,788
Legitimate	1,330	1,266	2,596
Illegitimate	111	81	192
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.0
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	6.9
<b>STILL-BIRTHS:</b>			
Total	18	23	41
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	14.4
Total live and still-births	1,459	1,370	2,829
<b>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</b>			
Total	29	20	49
Legitimate	28	17	45
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	17.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	20.8
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	-	-	10.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	9.7
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	24.0
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</b>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	677	713	1,390
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.9
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	*
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,398
Overall increase of population	-	-	3,770



SECTION "B"  
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT  
LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES - HITCHIN.  
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - SECTION 22.

Ante-Natal Booking Clinics

The completion of the attachment of midwives to groups of general practitioners made ante-natal booking sessions at some clinics unnecessary and ante-natal cases were seen at general practitioners' surgeries.

ATTENDANCE:

Clinic	No. of patients who attended 1968.	No. of Attendances 1968.
Hitchin: G.P. Surgeries.	337	1,048

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

Ante-Natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Clinic.	No. of Attendances 1968.
Hitchin	369

Family Planning Clinic

Family planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin, Bedford Road - Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)  
Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)  
Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included.

Three hundred and fifty nine new patients attended during the year and a total of 2,800 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method.

Stevenage Family Centre - Tuesday afternoon (Treble Doctor Session)  
Wednesday morning (Treble Doctor Session)  
Thursday evening (Treble Doctor Session)  
Friday morning (Treble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

Five hundred and thirty seven new patients attended during the year and a total of 7,646 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method.

Letchworth, Nevells Road, Health Centre - Opened in June 1968, with a single Doctor session on Monday evenings. It has registered 115 new patients besides relieving the Hitchin Clinic by taking many transfers from there. It is proposed shortly to appoint a second Doctor.

#### Infant Welfare Clinics.

County Health Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.	Monday & Friday 2-4 p.m. Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr.D.M.Batty Health Visitor
Community Centre, Walsworth, Hitchin.	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. H.I.L.Hall
Oakfield Estate, Hitchin (Mobile)	2nd Thursday 10a.m.-12 noon 4th Thursday 10a.m.-12 noon.	Dr.D.M.Batty Health Visitor.

Clinic	Children Born in 1968	Children Born in 1967	Children Born in 1963-66.	No.of Attend- ances.
Hitchin.	459	445	543	9,105

Attendances at these clinics continue to increase.

#### CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT.

The Sheldon Report on the child health services recommended the setting up of special units or panels to which children with special medical problems could be referred.

This unit has now been established in North Hertfordshire with the approval of the local medical committee and general practitioners and commenced in September, 1968; weekly sessions are held alternating between the Southgate Outpatients Clinic, Stevenage and the Health Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. Dr. C.G.Fagg, Consultant Paediatrician, is in charge of the unit and is supported by the Assistant County Medical Officers and appropriate clerical staff. General Practitioners may refer any child to the unit themselves.

The establishment and maintenance of an Observation ("At Risk") Register is a necessary accompaniment to this unit and the special medical examination of children considered to be "At Risk" has been in operation for some time. Such children are those in the following categories:- family history of deafness;



family history of diabetes; ante-partum haemorrhage; rhesus incompatibility; rubella in first four months of pregnancy; severe toxæmia; nephritis during pregnancy; difficult labour; anoxia; birth weight 5½lb or less; cerebral damage; neo-natal jaundice. These children are examined routinely at 3 months, one year, two years, three years and four years and any children found to be in normal health are removed from the register at the age of 18 months. Children who are found on examination to have a condition likely to affect their education or future are referred to the Child Health Assessment Unit and the Consultant Paediatrician is in a position to call on the most suitable agencies, including his Consultant colleagues for opinions or help.

It is hoped, therefore, that the setting up of this unit will enable a more thorough supervision of difficult problems to be maintained and that it will be of benefit to the community as a whole.

Attendances at this unit so far as follows:-

Children born in	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964 and over.
Hitchin.	6	1	2	3	4

One medical officer reported an increase in napkin rashes during 1968 and considers this due to over-medication with proprietary creams and excessive use of detergents and special rinses.

At the recommendation of the Sheldon Report, Infant Welfare Clinics are now renamed Child Health Clinics. It is hoped that a new clinic will shortly be opened at Trotts Hill Infant School in Stevenage. During the year four nurses have attended the County's District Nurse Training Course in Welwyn Garden City.

### Premature Infants.

A premature infant is one which weighs  $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb or less at birth. Observations on the risks of prematurity are included elsewhere in the discussion on divisional vital statistics.

#### PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1968

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to Hosp. after birth.	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days.		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Hitchin	7	28	35	0	4	4	1	0	2	2	7	26	33

### Care of the Unmarried Mother and Child.

A total of 49 illegitimate births were, in fact, notified by the Registrar General during 1968.

### Day Nurseries - North Herts.

Category	No. on Register.
1. Children of widows or widowers	1
2. Children of unmarried mothers	7
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands	24
4. Children of parents in prison	nil.
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	2
6. Temporary cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement	1
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help	1
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories; for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required)	3
9. Children living in bad housing conditions	nil
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up in family.	2

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December, 1968 was 41.

### MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P's surgery or in the home.

Entonox (Gas and Oxygen) has now completely replaced gas and air and all the midwives have been instructed in its use. During the year 31 pupil midwives from North Herts Maternity Unit have been placed in Hitchin, Stevenage and Letchworth for part of their training and have had good experience working with the Approved Teaching Midwives.

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse/midwives continued during 1968.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users."

#### DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - HITCHIN

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	2,058
Home Condition Reports for Hospitals	233
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	168
Deliveries - Home	219
Hospital Deliveries	271
Total - Live and Stillbirths	490
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	17

#### HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24-HITCHIN.

The work of the Health Visitor's has tended to expand during the year and developmental tests of young children are now routinely performed. Progress has also been made in the eye testing of school children with the introduction of the Keystone Machine, which also discovers latent squints and colour blindness.

Four health visitors were employed during 1968 with the assistance of 2 State Registered Nurses who attended school and infant welfare clinic sessions.

#### Health Visiting.

Child Health	Visits	5,185
Elderly	"	278
Others	"	451
School Inspections	Sessions	164
Maternity & Child Health	"	347



HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

HITCHIN.

The staff of the home nursing service in the division at 31st December, 1968, consisted of two full-time district nurses and 2 part-time district nurses; four full-time district nurse/midwives and 1 part-time district nurse/midwife. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1968. It will be seen that they made 11,743 visits to 402 patients; 80 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 10,339 occasions; 88 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.

Classification	HOME NURSING	
	No. of cases attended	No. of visits made

Medical	309	9,312
Surgical	79	2,421
Tuberculosis	-	-
Others	14	10

TOTALS	402	11,743
--------	-----	--------

Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	325	10,339
--	-----	--------

Children included above who were under 5 or less	3	8
--	---	---

G.P. Surgery	Sessions	-
--------------	----------	---

G.P. Surgery	Treatments.	-
--------------	-------------	---

## AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27

### NORTH HERTS

Number of patients conveyed	66,017
Number of Journeys	24,182
Total Mileage	436,031

#### Details of Journeys:

Accidents	1,624
Sudden Illness	586
Removals	62,937
Maternity	870

TOTAL	<u>66,017</u>
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The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE - SECTION 28.

### NORTH HERTS

The provision of the medical loans service continued to be delegated to the voluntary organisations of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. No charge was made and many items, such as back-rests, air-rings, bedpans, etc., were included. More expensive equipment was provided directly by County Hall and patients have benefited from the use of ripple beds, hydraulic hoists, bath seats etc.

Forty-four patients were recommended by their family doctors for a convalescent holiday and these were mainly spent at County Hall's convalescent home at St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

#### Chest Clinic

##### HEALTH VISITING:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	319
B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits	64
Contacts - Visits	263
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	116

##### NEW CASES:

Immigrants	10
Others	22
Contacts of New Cases	166
Heaf negative	59
B.C.G. vaccination	95



VENEREAL DISEASES

NORTH HERTS

SPECIAL CLINIC	Totals all Venereal Conditions	Number of New Cases in 1968			
		Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	Other Venereal Conditions
		Primary and Secondary	Other		
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	22	1	-	-	21
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	226	-	2	44	180
TOTAL	248	1	2	44	201

All venereal conditions increased by 13% in 1968, this figure however is probably not statistically valid and does not reveal the true incidence in North Hertfordshire.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY  
NORTH HERTS

CLINICS	No. 1st Attendances		% Pop. at risk attending		Negative		Positive		Unsatisfactory		Inflammatory		Trichomonas		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregularities	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HITCHIN	455	(i) 3 (ii) 4	417	91.65	1	0.22	4	0.88	13	2.85	18	3.96	3	0.66	-	-	8	1.76	-	-
LEITCHWORTH	288	(i) 3 (ii) 3	287	99.64	1	0.34	1	0.08	75	26.0	4	0.02	1	1.08	1	1.08	-	-	-	-
STEVENAGE	808	(i) 8 (ii) 11	743	91.09	5	.60	1	0.12	144	10.70	6	0.74	8	0.90	5	0.61	-	-	-	-
ROYSTON	49	(i) 0.53 (ii) 2	49	100%	Nil	-	-	-	39	69.59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CYTOLOGY CLINIC  
"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1968

Hitchin  
Letchworth  
Stevenage  
Royston

Every Wednesday a.m.  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays a.m.  
Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.  
Every 3rd Wednesday in the month am.

In 1968 attendances at the CytoLOGY Clinics showed a slight increase at Hitchin and Letchworth but were lower at Stevenage than in 1967. This continues to give some cause for concern and perhaps a publicity campaign during the coming year would renew public interest in these clinics.

In September 1968 a clinic was started at Royston. Attendance at this particular clinic has been satisfactory and the waiting list is long, so much so that consideration is being given to holding an extra session each month.

(i) Aged 20 and over (ii) Aged 30 and over.

Population At Risk Joren (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6. per cent deficient.

Baldock U.D.. (i) 2,080 (ii) 1,740 Hitchin U.D. (i) 9,540 (ii) 7,900 Letchworth (i) 9,480 (ii) 7,950

Royston U.D. (i) 2,260 (ii) 1,860 Stevenage U.D. (i) 16,200 (ii) 12,350 Hitchin R.D. (i) 8,560 (ii) 7,200

TOTAL AT RISK (i) 48,120 (ii) 39,000

MEALS ON WHEELS.  
HITCHIN.

Meals on Wheels Services were in operation in all parts of the division in 1968. Under the provisions of the scheme meals are provided to people suffering from malnutrition or who are unable to cook their own meals due to disability or infirmity.

District	No. of Persons	Frequency	Total Meals
Hitchin	55	Three times weekly	6,960

The problems of organisation of a Meals on Wheels service are often very great and I would like to record my indebtedness to the following W.R.V.S. Centre organiser for her work during the year - Mrs. H.R. Weston.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47.

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1968.



National Assistance Act, Sections 21-36:

During 1968 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being eighteen men and sixty women. The position will not be eased by Government restrictions on new buildings and the situation has worsened.

BLIND WELFARE - HITCHIN

District.	No.of registered Blind Persons.	No. of Registered Partially sighted Persons.	No.of Registered Blind and partially sighted persons with other handicaps including deafness and mental subnormality.
Hitchin	66	23	11

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wirelasses, talking books holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

Mental Health Act, 1959 - Sections 25, 26 and 29

During 1968, 100 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 14 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealt with 375 mental health cases during 1968.

Training Centres

Junior Training Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Special Care Unit	9
General Unit	43
Nursery	17
TOTAL	69

# Adult Training Centre, Leyden Road, Stevenage.

Trainees on roll 1st January 1968	35
Trainees on roll 31st December 1968	43
12 Males )	
9 Females ) joined the Centre during 1968.	
8 Males )	
5 Females ) left the Centre during 1968.	

## Health Education.

All members of the staff are involved in health education, whatever their appointment may be, but in addition the health visitors have given many talks, illustrated by films and film strips, these include:-

14	sessions with school children of all ages on general health and human biology.
2	" " Parent/Teacher's Association on Sex Education.
3	" " Couples hoping to adopt babies.
2	" " Expectant parents when the film "To Janet a Son" was shown and discussed.
2	" " Young wives and Youth Leaders on the work of the Health Visitor and Adolescence.
7	" " Guides and Scouts on First Aid.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29 - NORTH HERTS

Number of Home Helps employed at 31. 12. 68.	62
Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31. 12. 68.	11

In March the Part-Time Assistant Home Help Organiser, Mrs. E.C. Wigg, retired and it was decided not to appoint another Assistant - but to make a new establishment of Full-Time Area Home Help Organiser to take over the Letchworth, Baldock and Royston areas, under the supervision of the Divisional Home Help Organiser, Mrs. O.M. Benton. Mrs. A. Eccles was appointed to this post in November.

## GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	No. of cases	No. of hours given.
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers.	90	2,058½
2. Chronic sick:		
(a) Aged 65 plus	431	42,385¾
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	33	
3. Others:	95	5,710¾
Including:		
(a) Mental Health		
(b) Tuberculosis		
(c) Blind		
(d) Miscellaneous		
Acute Cases		
Accidents.		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>50,155</b>

66% cases in 1968 were over 65 and 83% total hours was given to this age group.  
13% cases were maternity absorbing only 4% total hours.



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

In this division we have tried to improve the standard of the five year old medical by having M.C.W. records and up to date medical reports available at the first medical examination. School Health Consultation clinics are being used more as it is felt that these give the Head Teachers the opportunity to immediately refer children they are concerned about to the doctor. Audiometric screen-testing is now taking place in the Infant's schools and during 1968 1,747 six year olds were tested and 144 children failed this initial sweep test. Annual eye testing is now routinely performed in all schools and infants schools will be visited three times a year to test entrants eyes in their first term.

Special education facilities were extended in this area when the Brandles Close School opened in September 1968. Head Teachers are encouraged to refer children who are experiencing educational difficulties so that early assessments can be made, and if necessary transfer to Longfield School at the age of six. There are 110 children at Brandles Close School (12-16 years) and 108 at Longfield (6 - 11 years). There are now five special classes for emotionally disturbed and retarded children attached to ordinary schools in the area.

There are now three speech therapists in this division, and if children do not respond favourably to therapy there is a special speech therapy unit at Trotts Hill Infants School for children with severe speech defects.

One School Medical Officer states that she is impressed with the school childrens standard of health including dental hygiene.

The medical staffing position in the division continues to be at a seriously low level and I would pay tribute to the hard work of the school medical officers under trying conditions. The whole time medical staff remain at three and efforts to recruit more have been unsuccessful.

### TABLE I - HITCHIN

#### INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN 1968:

Entrants including 8 year olds.	464
First year Secondary	262
Last year Secondary	<u>539</u>
Total	1,265
Number of special inspections	316
Number of re-inspections	876
Total	<u>1,192</u>
Total inspection	2,457

#### PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED:

Satisfactory	1,268
Found to require treatment	2
Percentage	.15%

TABLE II - HITCHIN

B.C.G. VACCINATION - 11,12 and 13 YEARS AND OLDER SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	832
Number of acceptances	787
Percentage of acceptances	94.5%

PRE-VACCINATION TUBERCULIN TEST:

Number tested	781
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RESULT OF TEST:

Number previously converted by B.C.G.	7
Number positive	14
Number negative	758
Number not ascertained	2
Percentage Positive	1.7%
Number vaccinated	745

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Drs Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin.  
Lister Hospital, Hitchin.  
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin.

CHEST CLINIC

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.  
Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Sections "C", "D" and "E" have been supplied by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED  
DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1968

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage .. .. .	440
Pet shops .. .. .	7
Caravan sites and gypsies .. .. .	64
Factories .. .. .	58
Refuse and Salvage Collection .. .. .	286
Refuse disposal .. .. .	84
Rats and mice .. .. .	83
Smoke observations .. .. .	2
Boiler plants .. .. .	3
Noise .. .. .	34
Shops, offices, etc. .. .. .	512
Petroleum installations .. .. .	72
Swimming pools .. .. .	16
Water supply .. .. .	1
Stables and Piggeries.. .. .	4
Miscellaneous .. .. .	1,636

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	88
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	376

Under Housing Acts:

Number of houses inspected and recorded .. .. .	172
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	284

Overcrowding:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	8
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	10

Houses in Multiple Occupation:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	15
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	473

cont'd.....



## HOUSING (cont'd)

### Improvement Grants:

Number of houses inspected..	..	..	..	58
Visits paid to houses..	..	..	..	513

### Improvement Areas:

Number of houses inspected..	..	..	..	1
Visits paid to houses..	..	..	..	9

### Certificates of Disrepair:

Number of houses inspected..	..	..	..	-
Visits paid to houses..	..	..	..	2

### Verminous Premises:

Visits paid to houses..	..	..	..	2
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## NOTICES SERVED

Number of informal notices served	..	..	57
Number of informal notices complied with	..	..	63
Number of statutory notices served	..	..	22
Number of statutory notices complied with..	..	..	22

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Enquiries in case of infectious disease	..	192
Enquiries in case of food poisoning	..	20
Other visits re food poisoning enquiries	..	1

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Inspection of meat:

Visits to shops	..	..	..	..	..	3
-----------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

### Food Inspection:

Visits to shops and stalls..	..	..	..	58
------------------------------	----	----	----	----

### Visits to:

Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	144
Fishmongers and poulterers..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Fish friers..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Food preparing premises	..	..	..	..	..	15
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	261
Greengrocers and fruiterers	..	..	..	..	..	38
Dairies and milkshops..	..	..	..	..	..	42

cont'd....

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd.)

### Visits to:

Ice-cream stores..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Hairdressers ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Markets ..	..	..	..	..	..	188
Restaurants..	..	..	..	..	..	88
School and factory canteens, etc.	..	..				21
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	..	..				99
Licensed premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Confectioners ..	..	..	..	..	..	88

### Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological):

Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Ice-cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85

## IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

### Structure:

Roofs repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired ..	..	..				4
Flashings repaired or replaced ..	..	..				8
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed ..	..	..				11
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ..	..	..				12
Walls pointed or repaired ..	..	..	..	..		5
Windows repaired..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Windows provided or replaced ..	..	..	..	..		13
New window sashcords provided ..	..	..	..	..		11
Doors replaced (external) ..	..	..	..	..		10
Doors provided or replaced (internal)	..					12
Door fasteners repaired or replaced ..	..	..				9
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired ..	..	..				1
Ceilings where plaster, etc. repaired or replaced ..	..					9
Floors relaid or repaired ..	..	..	..	..		26
Skirting boards repaired or replaced..	..	..				6
New firegrates provided ..	..	..	..	..		1
Ranges repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Chimney flues repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Staircases repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Handrails provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rooms where dampness remedied ..	..	..	..	..		11
New sinks provided ..	..	..	..	..	..	18

cont'd....

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Structure: (cont'd.)

Trapped sink waste pipes provided .. ..	19
New washbasins provided .. ..	27
Trapped washbasin wastepipes provided ..	27
New baths provided .. ..	27
Trapped bath waste pipes provided .. ..	27
Rooms where wallplaster, etc., repaired or replaced ..	17
Rooms decorated .. ..	17
Hot water systems provided.. ..	33
Ventilated food store provided .. ..	21

Drainage:

New drains constructed .. ..	8
Drains repaired .. ..	26
Drains ventilated .. ..	4
Drains cleansed .. ..	8
Inspection chambers provided .. ..	38
Inspection chamber covers provided .. ..	12
Self-cleansing gullies provided.. ..	6
Soil pipes provided or repaired.. ..	15

Waterclosets:

W.Cs where walls repaired .. ..	2
New basins fixed.. ..	32
W.Cs decorated .. ..	14
Cisterns repaired or renewed .. ..	27



SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.

(i) Water

Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company. Water is obtained from four wells: (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Wellhead, (3) Oughton Head, and (4) Offley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. Two hundred and fifty two bacteriological and seven chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and, therefore, no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency. No fluoridation is carried out to the water supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 8,968 serving approximately 26,860 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is 5 serving approximately 15 persons.

In the case of 15 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

(ii) Drainage and sewerage

Extensions to the soil and stormwater sewers were carried out during the year mainly on the Westmill, Whitehill and Meads estates.

2.

Rivers and Streams

A heavy rainfall of over three inches within twenty-four hours caused flooding of the river Purwell at Walsworth and other low lying areas of the town on 16th September, 1968. Twenty-eight houses at Walsworth were affected and some roads in this village and in the Ninesprings area became impassable. The flooding lasted until the following day. Surcharging of the foul sewers accentuated cleaning up problems. Disinfection was carried out immediately the water receded and help and advice were given by the department to householders in cleaning and drying out their houses.

contd....

## Rivers and Streams (cont'd.)

The Council set aside funds to help those in immediate need and assessments of the claims made were carried out by the Treasurer and this department. This help was greatly appreciated by those in poor circumstances, most of whom were not insured and enabled them to replace, in part, items irreparably damaged.

It is proposed to enlarge certain culverts lower down the river which will prevent such flooding recurring, although such rainfall as that experienced on this occasion happens very infrequently.

3.

(i) Closet Accommodation

Only a few outlying premises are provided with dry closets. The whole of the district is provided with water-closets connected to the Council's sewers, with the exception of a few houses which discharge to cesspools.

(ii) Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collections of large items of house refuse continue to increase. These special collections increased in number from 2,077 in 1967 to 2,332 this year. When one visits the refuse tip and sees the objects unloaded by the lorry one is forcibly reminded of the affluent society of to-day. Furniture of all kinds, even pianos, television and radio sets, carpets, linoleum, cookers and washing machines are all common discards of to-day.

In accordance with the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the Council have designated the Refuse Tip, Wallace Way, as the place where residents may deposit refuse, other than business refuse, free of charge.

(iii) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

One hundred and sixty eight premises received a general inspection during the year and five hundred and twelve visits were made.

cont'd.....

(iii) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Cont'd.)

Works carried out during 1968 were:

Cleanliness improved .. .. .	4
Overcrowding remedied .. .. .	2
Thermometers provided .. .. .	54
Means of heating provided or improved ..	10
Means of lighting provided or improved..	31
Floors and steps improved .. .. .	25
First aid boxes provided .. .. .	32
Washing facilities improved .. .. .	14
Hot and cold water provided .. .. .	20
Sanitary conveniences improved .. .. .	6
Soap and towel provided.. .. .	4
Abstract of Act provided .. .. .	53
Ventilation improved .. .. .	12
Facilities for eating meals improved ..	1
Accommodation for clothing provided ..	1
Drinking water provided.. .. .	6
Machinery guarded .. .. .	4
Handrails provided.. .. .	19

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises  
by workplace

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	1,486
Retail Shops	1,283
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses	132
Catering Establishments	220
Canteens	21
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	3,144
Total Males	1,216
Total Females	1,928

Accidents

Under the provisions of Section 48 of the Act six accidents were reported and all were investigated.



(iv) Caravans

At 31st December, 1968, seven licences had been granted authorising the use of land as sites for caravans. The number of caravans covered by the licences is 111.

(v) Clean Air

The factory development during the year was of the light industrial type, using small space heating units. No boilers were installed for process work. These new installations were of either gas or light oil, no solid fuel boiler appliances being installed. All came outside the scope of the second edition of the 1956 Clean Air Act Memorandum on Chimney Heights.

Smoke from bonfires of garden rubbish lit and left to burn at inappropriate times gave rise to a number of complaints during the year. In every case the informal approach made to the offenders resulted in their co-operation and an abatement of the cause of complaint.

(vi) Swimming Baths

There are three swimming baths in the district:

- (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main and children's pool;
- (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School;
- (c) a parent/teacher association pool at Purwell Primary School.

Thirty-six samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply. The water is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath and Purwell Primary School pool during the year.

(vii) Noise abatement

Two complaints of nuisance from noise were investigated. Test levels taken showed that the noise did not exceed the standards laid down in B.S.4142 and consequently no action was taken in respect of them. The complainants were advised accordingly.

Complaints continue to be received of the sounding of bells and musical jingles from mobile ice-cream and other food vans. Routine inspections of the town are now made to try to ensure, so far as is possible, that the requirements of the Act are complied with. In all, thirty-four visits were made.

## SECTION "D"

### HOUSING

1.

#### Unfit Houses

During the year 172 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. The majority of inspections were of houses in the area bounded by Nightingale, Verulam and Walsworth Roads, the object being eventually to obtain a more correct assessment of housing requirements in this locality.

One house was demolished in 1968 in pursuance of a demolition order and one undertaking not to relet a house until made fit for human habitation was accepted.

2.

#### Houses in Multiple Occupation

The first few immigrants arrived in Hitchin about 1955. I now estimate their number to total approximately 1,500.

Most of these persons are housed either in the older type of large house, let off in rooms, or share houses with other immigrant families.

The general policy of the Council is to limit the number of individuals in these houses, due to lack of facilities, by making Directions under Section 19 Housing Act, 1961. Houses on which Directions had been made totalled 93 at the end of the year.

Living under such conditions it is impossible to evaluate the psychological effect on immigrants, especially their children. However, the practice of the Council in rehousing the worst cases into Council accommodation, together with supervision and inspection by the department are slowly improving these conditions.

During the year the Council rehoused 18 families from the foregoing type of house.



3.

Improvement Grants

(1) Number of discretionary improvement grants made	Nil.
(2) Number in (1) above made to owner/occupier	Nil.
(3) Number of houses where discretionary improvement works completed.. ..	Nil.
(4) Number of standard improvement grants made	57
(5) Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers	32
(6) Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed .. ..	42

4.

Improvement Areas

In this sphere of environmental health the work carried out in previous years to encourage owners and occupiers to improve their dwellings began to show results. Of thirteen Immediate Improvement Notices served in respect of tenanted houses in Improvement Area No.1 twelve were complied with by the end of the year. In similar circumstances of twenty Immediate Improvement Notices in respect of Improvement Area No.2, eleven were also complied with. These, together with one improvement carried out at a premises at which a suspended notice had been served, and which subsequently became vacant, gave a total of twenty-four tenanted houses provided with the seven standard amenities during the year.

No further improvement areas were declared during the year because of the Government's proposal to bring in new legislation in this field.

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations three premises are registered as dairies. One of the dairies carried out the pasteurising and bottling of milk using the H.T.S.T. method of pasteurisation. The two remaining dairies are used as milk stores. There are also four distributors of milk registered under the Regulations. Inspections of the foregoing dairies were made during the year.

During the year 48 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examinations with the following results, the majority being bottled milk taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

No. of Samples	Class of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Percentage Satisfactory
		Satisfied.	Failed.	Satisfied.	Failed.	
29	Pasteurised	28	1	29	-	96.5%
		Turbidity Test				
		Satisfied.	Failed.			
19	Sterilised	19	-			100%

(b) Meat and Foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district licensed by the Council.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food-preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound and unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers' Shops

Beef .. .. . 75 lb.

General

Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods 2,051 lb.

Miscellaneous tinned meats .. .. 340 lb.

(c) Food Complaints

During the year the department received twenty-one complaints in respect of various foodstuffs. In all cases investigations were carried out to determine the source of and ascertain the reasons for the complaints and to ensure that all necessary steps were taken by the firms concerned to prevent any further repetition.

The following table gives details of some of the complaints followed by summaries of the findings and action taken. It is the department's policy in every case where contraries are found in food etc., to inform the complainant of the action taken.

Commodity	Nature of the Complaint
1. Cheese Roll.	Red specks in roll.
2. Tin of Baked Beans.	Mouldy.
3. White Loaf.	Black foreign body in loaf.
4. Christmas Pudding.	Stale and mouldy.
5. Orange juice.	Insect larvae in juice.
6. Pork Pie.	Mouldy.
7. Bottle of Milk.	Iced Lolly wrapper in bottle.
8. Pork Pie.	Mouldy.
9. Loaf of Bread.	Small nail in loaf.
10. Cheddar Sandwich.	Splinter of glass in sandwich.
11. Chocolates.	Mouldy.
12. Bottle of Milk.	Fruit fly pupae in milk.

Summaries

1. A cheese roll purchased from a local cafe contained red specks. It was eventually decided that the specks were probably traces of the red rind of the cheese used in making the rolls.
2. A tin of baked beans purchased from a Supermarket was found, on opening, to be mouldy. The manager was interviewed and the stock of beans bearing the same code number checked. Thirty-four cans of food were found to be dented or slightly damaged and were surrendered.

cont'd.....



Summaries (cont'd.)

3. A foreign body was found in a loaf of bread. The case was reported to the Weights and Measures authority who had the object analysed. The foreign object was found to be discoloured dough stained with traces of iron. A letter of caution was sent to the baker concerned.
4. A Christmas Pudding, purchased in March 1968, was found to be stale and mouldy. The stock of eleven puddings in the grocer's shop was examined and found to be in the same condition and surrendered. The manufacturers were contacted and it was found that the puddings had not been supplied direct, but by a wholesale firm. The state of the puddings was attributed to incorrect storage and the manufacturers undertook to take the necessary steps to prevent a repetition.
5. Complaint was made that a bottle which had contained orange juice had what appeared to be insect larvae in it. The dairy concerned had the remains of the juice subjected to an examination at a pathological department who reported that the bottle contained two small garden slugs in an advanced state of decomposition. The examination revealed no evidence of the slugs having passed through the bottle washing process.
6. A complainant purchased a pork pie at a public house to consume on the premises. After partially eating the pie he discovered green mould in the pie contents. Checks were made and it was found that the pie was ten days old. The landlord of the public house refunded the purchase price of the pie and thereafter discontinued the sale of pies.
7. An iced lolly wrapper was found in a half pint bottle of milk whilst being consumed at a local school. The milk was handed over to the Weights and Measures authority who, after investigation, decided not to prosecute stating that even though so large a foreign body ought to have been noticed and failure to do so indicated want of care, the harmless nature of the wrapper would not help if proceedings were taken.
8. A wrapped pork pie purchased from a local Supermarket was found to be mouldy before being consumed. The coding of this particular pie revealed that it had been sold four days after the expiration date. The manager of the Supermarket was cautioned and a letter also sent to the Managing Director requiring him to ensure more careful stock rotation of pies in future.
9. A small nail was found in a loaf of bread purchased from a local Supermarket. The case was handed over to the Weights and Measures authority who decided, after investigation, to caution the bakery concerned.

Summaries (cont'd.)

10. A splinter of glass was found in a Smith's Cheddar Sandwich. The case was fully investigated by the department and the laboratory of the firm concerned. No source could be found for the small piece of glass.
11. A white mould was found on chocolates in a box purchased from a market stall. The trader was interviewed and his stock thoroughly examined. It appeared that the box was a single one which had been adversely affected.
12. A pint bottle of milk, on delivery, was found to contain foreign matter which was later identified as fruit-fly pupae. The case was reported to the Weights and Measures authority who prosecuted. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined £40.

(d) Ice-Cream

Premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:-

3 premises - for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.

82 premises - for storage and sale of ice-cream.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling. Regarding sampling 30 samples of ice-cream and 22 of "soft" ice-cream were taken.

Ice-Cream

Grade 1	..	..	..	25	satisfactory.
Grade 2	..	..	..	4	satisfactory.
Grade 3	..	..	..	1	unsatisfactory.

"Soft" Ice-Cream

Grade 1	..	..	..	13	satisfactory.
Grade 2	..	..	..	1	satisfactory.
Grade 3	..	..	..	2	unsatisfactory.
Grade 4	..	..	..	6	unsatisfactory.

(e) Food Hygiene

One prosecution was taken for offences under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The shopkeeper concerned was fined a total of £80 plus 10 guineas costs for nine separate contraventions.

The following table gives details of food premises in the area:

Types of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 F.H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies F.H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 F.H. Regs. 1960
Bakehouses	7	7	7	7
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Catering	53	53	53	53
Confectioners	10	10	10	10
Fishmongers & Poulterers	7	7	7	7
Fried Fish	6	6	6	6
Food Factories	6	6	6	6
Greengrocers	17	17	17	17
Grocers	46	46	46	46
Licensed Premises	46	46	46	46
Off Licences	8	8	8	8
Supermarkets	6	6	6	6
Sweet and Mineral	27	27	24	24
	257	257	254	254

cont'd.



(e) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises	No.	Registered
Butchers	17	for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food.
Food factories	1	
Grocers	2	
Butcher	2	for the pickling of meat.
Fishmongers	1	for the preservation of fish.
Grocers	4	for the cooking of ham.
Grocer	1	for the roasting of chickens.
Fishmonger	2	for the roasting of chickens.
General Premises	2	for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.
Supermarkets	1	
Grocers	29	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Greengrocers	5	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Confectioners (sweets)	18	storage and sale of ice-cream.
General premises	27	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Supermarkets	3	storage and sale of ice-cream.

The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc., of food:

Washing facilities:

Number of new wash-hand basins provided	12
defective wash-hand basins renewed	2
new glazed sinks provided	4
fitments provided with running hot and cold water	21
trapped waste pipes provided	1
new draining boards provided	1
double sink units provided	1

Structural work

Number of rooms where floor repaired or renewed	14
walls decorated	24
ceilings decorated	24

cont'd.

(e) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

Equipment

Number of premises where equipment renovated	1
new counter tops installed	6
new shop fronts provided	2
refrigerated display cabinets provided	14
<u>Food Hygiene</u> food storage improved	7
Number of premises where glass screening provided	2
suitable overalls etc. provided	3
first aid boxes provided	3
Number of rooms where walls and floors etc. cleansed	8

(f) Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs

During 1968, 60 visits were made to food-preparing premises and 175 swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures, and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. One-hundred-and-six samples passed the unofficial standard and 69 failed.

Utensil-cleaning techniques are constantly under supervision.

(g) Food and Drugs Sampling

Mr. Nisbet, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, Herts. County Council has kindly provided me with a list of 74 samples taken by his department in the urban district during 1968.

cont'd.

(g) Food and Drugs Sampling (cont'd.)

No. of Samples Taken	Sample
45	Milk
10	Milk (Channel Island)
1	Milk (Homogenised)
1	Milk (Sterilised)
1	Sugarlike
1	Prawn curry
1	Stuffed Cabbage
1	Norwegian fish soup
1	Apricot jam
1	Gravy tablets
1	Minced turkey in jelly
1	Pork luncheon meat
1	Minced beef with onion and gravy
1	Pease pudding
1	Full cream evaporated milk
1	Beef sausages
1	Butter-drops
1	Peppermint creams
1	Coffee creams
1	Coconut creams
1	Full strength chocolate cherry liqueurs

All the samples were found to be genuine. Twenty-eight of the fifty-seven samples of milk were tested for the presence of antibiotics and were found to be free.



FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961

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PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	197	53	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	2	-	-
TOTAL -	208	58	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT  
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134	
	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served. Prosecutions
Clothing manufacture	22	-	-	-	-







